

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed April 17, 2003 and telephone conference with the Examiner on May 16, 2003, the hereinabove referenced patent application is herewith amended. In order to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) the Applicants proposed changes to Figure 6 as shown in the attached sheet in red. As hereinabove noted, formal drawings will be provided upon approval by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 8-14 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 3,323,151 to Lerman. In response thereto, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 8 to define the spaced apart arms as extending from the pads and holding the pads and handle in a spaced apart relationship. This structure clearly distinguishes the present invention from the Lerman reference and accordingly request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-14 under 35 USC 103(b) on the basis of the Lerman reference.

Claims 7 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lerman in view of U.S. 5,611,098 to Skibik. In this rejection, the Examiner has noted the Lerman fails to disclose or suggest a means for releasably holding the pads in the parallel planar relationship and relies on Skibik for such teaching.

The Applicants admit that the Skibik reference does not make obvious claim 7 in view of the fact that the structure which depends from claim 1 include spaced apart

arms extending from the pads and the hinge handle for holding the pads and handle in a spaced apart relationship. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) on the basis of the Lerman and Skibik references.

In view of the arguments hereinabove set forth and amendment to the claims, it is submitted that each of the claims now in the application define patentable subject matter not anticipated by the art of record and not obvious to one skilled in this field who is aware of the references of record. Reconsideration and allowance are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 20, 2003
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